

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 EB-04 STR-01 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4684

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9405

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: SCCN TRADE GROUP MEETING IN GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 240427

1. EMB ECON OFF CALLED NOVEMBER 5 ON HECTOR HERNANDEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TREASURY, AND DURING COURSE BRIEF MEETING PRESENTED MAJOR POINTS REFTEL. HERNANDEZ EXPRESSED AGREEMENT IMPORTANCE GUATEMALA MEETINGS AND NEED FOR COMING UP WITH REALISTIC, "PURIFIED" (DEPURADO) LIST IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE GSP BENEFITS FOR LATIN AMERICAN LDCS. AT HERNANDEZ SUGGESTION, ECON OFF THEN HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR ABEL GARRIDO, WHO IS MOST INTIMATELY CONCERNED WITH SCCN MATTERS.

2. DURING COURSE CONVERSATION, GARRIDO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) THE PRODUCT LIST SUBMITTED SOME MONTHS AGO BY MEXICO TO THE OAS SECRETARIAT STAFF SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED CURRENT. GOM INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE (TREASURY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND AGRICULTURE) IS MEETING THIS WEEK TO COME UP WITH NEW LIST BASED ON IMPROVED CRITERIA. THIS NEW LIST WILL BE TAKEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GUATEMALA FOR FURTHER REFINEMENT; (2) IN THIS REGARD,

GOM REQUESTED AT QUITO SCCN MEETING THAT OAS SECRETARIAT SUPPLY INFORMATION ON CERTAIN US IMPORTS, INCLUDING TARIFF AND NTBS, MEXICAN MARKET SHARE, ETC., WHICH NOT YET RECEIVED. GARRIDO ASSUMES OAS SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE THIS DATE AVAILABLE IN GUATEMALA NEXT WEEK; (3) GARRIDO HOPES THAT USDEL WILL BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANT DURING WEEK'S MEETINGS, AS THERE WILL BE MANY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED. HE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF LA CONSENSUS WAS TO TURN MEETING INTO VIRTUAL LA CAUCUS TO EXCLUSION TECHNICAL EXPERTISE USDEL; (4) MORE BASICALLY, GARRIDO QUESTIONS WHETHER MEETING WILL RESULT IN TRUE CONSOLIDATED LIST. HE THINKS THAT PERHAPS BEST TO BE HOPED FOR FROM GUATEMALA MEETING IS REFINEMENT AND PRIORITY ORDERING OF INDIVIDUAL LA LISTS, WITH CONSOLIDATION JOB TO BE LEFT UP TO OAS SECRETARIAT. IN GENERAL, HE CONSIDERS OAS SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL TO BE VERY HELPFUL AND WELL-QUALIFIED TECHNICALLY; (5) FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF PRESENTATION CONSOLIDATED LIST, GARRIDO UNDERSTANDS THAT IT WILL NOT BE PRESENTED UNTIL AFTER TRA BECOMES LAW.

3. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT BOTH HERNANDEZ AND GARRIDO ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT US POSITION AS OUTLINED PARA 3 REFTEL, AND THAT MEX DEL WILL BE SO SELECTED AND INSTRUCTED. COMPOSITION MEX DEL STILL UNDECIDED, BUT NAMES WILL BE REPORTED WHEN AVAILABLE.
BRANDIN

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